

Howard, that is great, but who is going to tell Russell Long?

I enjoy that story. It demonstrates both the power and the respect that Senator Russell Long commanded as a U.S. Senator and as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. No wonder the Wall Street Journal once referred to Russell Long as the fourth branch of Government. Journalists, as well as Presidents and Senators, revered and enjoyed this colorful man, and brilliant Senator. During his 38 years in the Senate, Russell B. Long truly became an institution within this institution.

I missed Russell Long when he left the Senate. Erma and I missed his lovely wife Carolyn. I called Carolyn a few minutes ago to speak with her about her late husband Russell Long. I told her I was going to have a few words to say about Russell, and I asked her to listen in if she liked.

I close this short statement about Russell Long with a poem by Thomas Moore, that great Irishman. The title of the poem is "The Light of Other Days."

I dedicate these words by Thomas Moore to Carolyn, and in so doing, of course, I think about my own service in this Chamber with Russell Long.

Oft, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain as bound me,
Fond memory brings the light
Of other days around me;
The smiles, the tears,
Of boyhood's years,
The words of love then spoken;
The ayes that shone,
Now dimm'd and gone,
The cheerful hearts now broken.
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad memory brings the light
Of other days around me.
When I remember all
The friends, so link'd together,
I've seen around me fall
Like leaves in wintry weather.
I feel like one
Who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garland's dead,
And all but he departed.
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me.

HAPPY 140TH BIRTHDAY, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today is the 140th birthday of West Virginia:

West Virginia, how I love you!
Every streamlet, shrub and stone,
Even the clouds that flit above you
Always seem to be my own.
Your steep hillsides clad in grandeur,
Always rugged, bold and free,
Sing with ever swelling chorus:
Montani, Semper, Liberi!
Always free! The little streamlets,
As they glide and race along,
Join their music to the anthem
And the zephyrs swell the song.
Always free! The mountain torrent
In its haste to reach the sea,
Shouts its challenge to the hillsides

And the echo answers "FREE!"

Always free! Repeats the river
In a deeper, fuller tone
And the West wind in the treetops
Adds a chorus all its own.

Always Free! The crashing thunder,
Madly flung from hill to hill,
In a wild reverberation
Makes our hearts with rapture fill.

Always free! The Bob White whistles
And the whippoorwill replies,
Always free! The robin twitters
As the sunset gilds the skies.

Perched upon the tallest timber,
Far above the sheltered lea,
There the eagle screams defiance
To a hostile world: "I'm free!"

And two million happy people,
Hearts attuned in holy glee,
Add the hallelujah chorus:
"Mountaineers are always free!"

It is that time of year again.

It is that time when the flowers are in full bloom and birds are chirping the sweetest and the loudest. It is that time when you feel most like breathing the clean, fresh air blowing in from the Appalachian mountains. The time of year when you feel most like taking your loved one by the hand and strolling, arm in arm, through your favorite park knowing that all is right with the world—and all is right with the world because it is West Virginia Day!

June 20 is West Virginia Day. I am celebrating this glorious day. It was 140 years ago that West Virginia became a State. It was on June 20, 1863, the Reverend J.T. McLure offered the State's inaugural prayer. Referring to the fact that the State was created in the middle of the American Civil War, he prayed:

We pray Thee, almighty God, that this State, born amidst tears and blood and fire and desolation, may long be preserved and from its little beginning may grow to be a might and a power that shall make those who come after us look upon it with joy and gladness and pride of heart.

I am pleased and proud to say, 140 years later, that I can look upon my West Virginia with "joy and gladness and pride of heart." On this West Virginia Day, I again want to speak about the people of West Virginia, the hardest-working and most patriotic people in the United States. They have endured hardships, poverty, and floods of biblical proportions, but have remained loyal to their State and our Nation. Whenever the country has needed them, in war or in peace, they have always been there, and I have always been so proud to represent them in the United States Senate.

On this West Virginia Day, I again speak about the splendors of my State—truly one of the most beautiful states in the Nation. With its rushing, trout-filled mountain streams, its majestic rolling green hills, picturesque villages and towns, magnificent forests, scenic state parks—no wonder the State has been depicted in song and verse as being "almost heaven." There are the State's natural beauties like Seneca Rocks and the New River Gorge. I hope the pages will go and see

these scenic beauties in this State that is almost heaven. There are the State's natural wonders like Cranberry Glades, Hawks Nest, and Berkeley Springs.

You can go camping in West Virginia's beautiful parks like Cooper's Rock State Forest, Babcock, Pipestem, or Watoga. You can go fishing in the Greenbrier River, Holly River, and Tygart Lake. You can take a ski trip in the wondrous Canaan Valley, or go white-water rafting down the magnificent Cheat River, go hiking along the awesome Appalachian Trail.

Simply drive around the State and enjoy a pace and a view far different than the drives most of us suffer through daily. I invite my colleagues, I invite the media, I invite the people in the galleries, people everywhere, to take a drive in West Virginia. You will love it. You will never forget it. There is nothing like it elsewhere in the world. West Virginia. Almost heaven.

I invite the Democratic pages and the Republican pages, our staffs. I have often spoken enthusiastically of the "wild and wonderful" scenery of West Virginia. Therefore, on this, the 140th anniversary of my great and glorious State, I want to tell you about its history.

Some of my State's history is well-known and well-documented; like the fact that it is the only State created from another State without the parent State's permission, and that it is the only State to achieve statehood by the proclamation of a president, Abraham Lincoln. It can be argued that the first battle of the American Revolution took place at Point Pleasant and that the last battle of the Revolution was fought at Fort Henry, in Wheeling. The State is rich in Civil War history; at Harpers Ferry, John Brown began the bloody quest to finally eliminate the scourge of slavery from this nation, and the first significant land battle of the Civil War took place at Phillippi, on June 3, 1861.

But there is another, lesser known, side to my State's history that I want to talk about today—a history that shows what a unique, diversified, and fascinating state West Virginia really is.

Most of my colleagues are aware that West Virginia's political history includes providing the Senate's Majority Leader, the Senate's Minority Leader, the chairman of the Senate Appropriation's Committee, and the second longest serving Senator in American history—and that was all one person—who? Me. But I proudly point out that my State's political history includes the first African American woman, Minnie Buckingham Harper of Welch, to ever serve in a State legislature. That was in 1928. In 1934, West Virginians elected one of the youngest persons ever elected by popular vote to the United States Senate—Rush D. Holt. His son, Rush Holt, now represents the State of New Jersey in the House of Representatives.

Most people are aware of the importance of coal to West Virginia, and the

importance of West Virginia coal to the Nation. For nearly a century, West Virginia coal helped fuel America's industries, heat our homes and power our battleships. But West Virginia's natural resources have also included America's first natural gas well, in 1815, near Charleston, and the world's largest gas well, "Big Moses" in Tyler County, which was drilled in 1894 and produced 100,000,000 cubic feet of gas per day. In 1941, the first and largest synthetic rubber plant in the United States began operation near Charleston.

There is so much to see and do in West Virginia. Come on down. Come on down to West Virginia. There is nature. There is beauty. There is history. And the State's modern highway system. I can remember when, while serving in the West Virginia Legislature in 1947, seeing that State as a State without a single mile of divided 4-lane highway on the 1947 highway map. Think of that. A 1947 highway map shows not a single mile, not one in the whole State, of divided 4-lane highway. Oh, but what a change.

With the State's modern highway system, you can drive to Weirton, WV, and see the only city in the United States that stretches from a State's eastern border all the way to its western border.

At Grafton, WV, you can visit Andrews Church, which, on May 10, 1908, was the site of the first celebration of Mother's Day. Just a few hours away, near Thomas, WV, is a unique, picturesque little church, Our Lady of the Pines, once considered the smallest church in the United States.

You can travel to Charles Town, WV, and see where rural free mail delivery began in 1896 and see the Court House in which more than 500 coal miners went on trial for treason and insurrection in 1922.

Speaking of labor history, drive over to Martinsburg and see where the great railroad strike of 1877 began, or down to Logan County, WV, and view the site of the largest labor uprising in American history, the Battle of Blair Mountain.

West Virginia also has a fascinating business history. The first trust in the United States was the salt trust organized in 1817 by the salt manufacturers along the Kanawha River.

The first patent for a soda fountain—if you have ever taken your girl to the soda fountain? What a great memory that is. I used to walk 3 miles to take my girlfriend at that time—she's my wife now, after 66 years—I took her to the soda fountain. And I would buy a quart of ice cream. It just cost 5 cents in those days.

The first patent for a soda fountain was granted to George Dulty, of Wheeling, WV, in 1833 and outdoor advertising had its origins in that same city in 1908. The first municipally owned parking building in the United States opened in Welch—that is in Dowell County. The very Southern point of West Virginia—in 1941.

Sports history, West Virginia has that too. Colliers, WV, on June 1, 1880, was the site of the first bareknuckles heavyweight championship fight. At Burnsville, in 1960, Danny Heater scored 135 points in a single basketball game, for which he is in the Guinness Book of World Records. Can you believe that, 135 points in a basketball game?

Finally, let me invite you to drive over to Ritchie County, WV, and see where history was made when a Mountain was made from a Mole Hill—literally. It actually happened. It happened when the good people of the town of Mole Hill, WV, decided to change the name of their town to Mountain. They changed it from a "molehill" into a "mountain."

On this the 140th anniversary of West Virginia, we will welcome you.

On this, the 140th anniversary of West Virginia, I say happy birthday, West Virginia. Come on down to West Virginia. Congratulations, West Virginia.

"Born amidst tears and blood and fire and desolation," in the words of Reverend Mr. McLure, from a "little beginning" you have grown "to be a might and a power" that has made us look upon you "with joy and gladness and pride of heart."

This was no land for lily-fingered men
Who bowed and scraped and danced a neat quadrille,

In towns and cities far beyond the ken
Of mountaineers—who loved each rock and rill.

It was a place for lean, tall men with love
For freedom flowing strongly in their veins,
For those attuned to vagrant stars above,
To rugged peaks, deep snows and June-time rains.

And so our State was whelped in time of strife

And cut its teeth upon a cannon ball;
Its heritage was cleaner, better life,
Within the richest storehouse of them all.

With timber, oil and gas and salt and coal,
It bargained in the world's huge marketplace.

The mountain empire reached a mighty goal;
It never ran a pauper's sordid race.

And best of all, it sired a hardy flock
Whose fame will grow with centuries to be,
Tough as a white-oak stump or limestock rock,

The mountaineers—who always shall be free.

CLEARING AWAY THE MUD AND MUCK

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Mother Nature has once again, as I have seen so many times, dealt West Virginia a heavy blow. For more than a week, heavy rains have spawned flash floods and mudslides. The storms have resulted in millions of dollars in damages to homes and businesses in Central and Southern West Virginia, damage so significant that yesterday Governor Bob Wise requested a Federal disaster declaration for then counties.

His request seeks Federal aid for Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne counties.

The need for help is abundantly clear. Hundreds and hundreds of homes have been washed away or significantly damaged because of the storms. Mudslides continue to threaten communities nestled along West Virginia's many mountains, mudslides that could be triggered with just a little more rain or a little more wind. Thousands of West Virginians have been without power, without telephone service, and without utility service. Bridges and roads have literally been wiped off the map, isolating communities that already are working to pick themselves up from this devastation.

Make no mistake, West Virginians are committed to rebuilding.

So many times I have seen them after a flood, if the homes were still standing, go right back into those homes, or, if the homes were gone, building another home and going right back into those homes.

So they are committed to rebuilding their lives. But they need help to get back on their feet.

As I have just indicated, today is West Virginia Day—a day normally set aside to celebrate the anniversary of the Mountain State becoming a full-fledged partner in this union of States. There will not be much celebrating today in these storm-ravaged counties. But we do celebrate the West Virginia spirit that has shined throughout the years, and in that same spirit that has shined throughout this disaster. It is a spirit that can never be washed away, no matter how heavy the rains come, and no matter how deep the floods.

Thousands of Mountain State residents have taken part in the recover effort. I applaud them. Like so many before them among those West Virginia hills, they have filled sandbags and carried pets to safety. They have pulled people from homes just before the on-rushing waters came rolling in. It is no surprise. Helping neighbors in need is the West Virginia way.